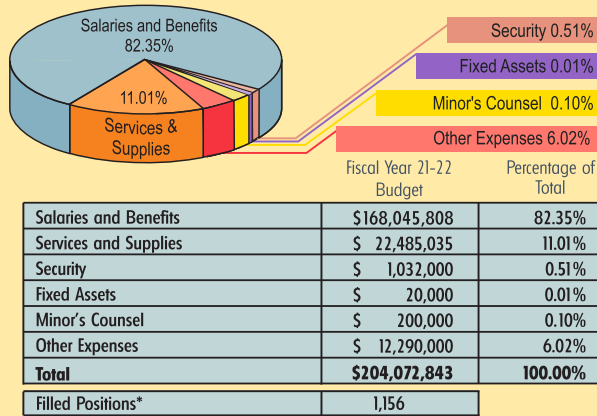


BUDGET

The goal of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego, is to provide the highest level of service within budgeted appropriations.



* As of 01/01/23

- Salaries and Benefits** - Salaries and benefits of all court employees, except for judges, whose salaries are paid directly by the state.
- Services and Supplies** - Costs of office furniture, supplies, telecommunications and contractual services such as information technology and printing services.
- Security** - In FY 11-12, as a result of Trial Court Security Realignment (AB 118), sheriff-related security costs for courtroom security and perimeter security were transferred to the County of San Diego. The remaining security costs in the court budget include such areas as after-hours security for facilities and security equipment maintenance.
- Fixed Assets** - Purchase of equipment costing more than \$5,000 (e.g., furniture, copy machines).
- Minor's Counsel** - The costs to appoint private counsel to represent the interests of the child in a custody or visitation proceeding.
- Other Expenses** - Includes payments of County services (e.g., custodial costs), collection costs and traffic school monitoring costs.

FILINGS

Hundreds of thousands of Superior Court cases are handled each year in San Diego County. From July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022 (Fiscal Year 2021/2022), total filings for all case types more than 260,000.

CASE TYPE	FY19/20	FY20/21	FY21/22
Felony	10,281	11,996	12,446
Misdemeanor (Non-Traffic)	21,485	15,487	10,422
Misdemeanor (Traffic)	9,475	8,350	10,167
Infraction (Non-Traffic)	75,653	23,458	13,352
Infraction (Traffic)	188,901	137,610	134,826
Limited Civil (without Unlawful Detainer)	22,058	23,558	18,594
Limited Unlawful Detainer	6,483	2,565	5,175
Small Claims	8,528	5,200	5,518
Unlimited Civil	17,555	19,233	18,727
Probate	2,726	3,177	3,512
Family Law (Dissolution/Separation/Nullity)	9,862	10,982	11,804
Family Support	3,839	4,504	4,404
Domestic Violence	7,214	8,424	8,071
Other Family Law	2,875	2,640	3,215
Juvenile Justice	1,372	833	662
Juvenile Dependency	1,690	1,464	1,378
Total	389,997	279,481	262,273

- "Family Support" are filings where the Department of Child Support Services are a party to the case.
 - "Domestic Violence" includes Domestic Violence Restraining Orders filed in Family Court.
 - "Other Family Law" includes Paternity, Surrogacy, Child Support, Child Custody, and other miscellaneous Family Court petitions.



Welcome

This past year the court has made significant progress on its path back to "normal" court operations, but challenges remain as we work our way over the many hurdles remaining from the COVID-19 pandemic. Many cases filed over

the past few years have struggled to reach a resolution, but our judges are working hard to address the case backlog, and the court is taking advantage of the Chief Justice's Temporary Assigned Judges Program to assist in that effort. The court also continues to offer opportunities for litigants and attorneys to handle court business remotely wherever possible.

Over the past three years, we have also bid farewell to more than 30 judges who have been a part of a broader retirement wave, and we anticipate a few more retirements in 2023. With these well-deserved retirements, we have welcomed a new generation of judges – a full third of our bench has been appointed or elected within the last five years.

We are seeing the same generational change in our employee workforce and, as seen across the country, the court is facing a record number of retirements and the resulting vacancies to fill. Many of our business offices are staffed by clerks who are relatively new to their positions, and we appreciate your patience as we work on completing training to bring everyone up to full speed. The court also has several job openings across all departments – please refer to sdcourt.ca.gov/careers for current opportunities.

Amid the recent challenges, we introduced a new community outreach program, Juries & Justice, geared for high school students with a focus on what goes into seating a fair and impartial jury of one's peers, and we have held unique events such as bringing a court back in session at Old Town's Whaley House for the first time in 151 years.

We are proud of our continued implementation of collaborative courts that aim to reduce recidivism, increase accountable behaviors, improve the quality of life for individuals and their families, and maintain public safety.

Enclosed you will find a summary of our budget, recent case filings, a list of self-help services available to the public, and details on the types of cases that can be filed at each of our seven locations. On behalf of our 135 judges, 19 commissioners, and more than 1,100 employees, welcome to the San Diego Superior Court.

Michael T. Smyth

Hon. Michael T. Smyth

Presiding Judge (2022-2023)

Self-Help Services

In certain circumstances, self-help services are available to litigants who go to court without an attorney. These programs offer assistance by providing procedural information and education to litigants preparing for court. In some cases, this assistance may involve completing forms or offering ways to settle the case without appearing in court. Services/clinics are operated within court facilities and are offered at no cost, on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the telephone numbers listed for further information, or visit the court's Self-Help Center website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov/SelfHelp.

Child Support - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office provides procedural and forms assistance with cases involving the Department of Child Support Services (governmental child support cases). For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

Civil Harassment Restraining Order Clinic* - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, South and East County locations. San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides this assistance at the North County location.

Central (877) 534-2524 North (619) 235-5656
 South (877) 534-2524 East (877) 534-2524

Conservatorship Clinic* - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance. For information, call: (877) 534-2524

Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic* - San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. provides procedural and forms assistance in Central, North and East County locations. Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides this assistance at the South County location.

Central (619) 235-5656 North (619) 235-5656
 South (877) 534-2524 East (619) 235-5656

Family Law Assistance - San Diego Superior Court Family Law Facilitator's Office provides procedural and forms assistance. For recorded information, call: (619) 844-2200

Guardianship Clinic - Guardianship Assistance Program provides orientation workshops and follow-up forms assistance. For information, call: (619) 844-2869

Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic* - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. For information, call: (877) 534-2524

Small Claims Legal Advisor - San Diego Superior Court provides legal assistance to litigants on small claims procedures, forms, and processes. Services are currently provided remotely by phone, email and live chat. In person assistance is expected to resume in early 2023. Help is available in English and Spanish. For information, call: (858) 634-1777
 Recorded Info: (858) 634-1900

Small Claims Mediation* - National Conflict Resolution Center provides mediated settlement assistance at the Central location. For information, call: (619) 238-2400

Unlawful Detainer Clinic* - Legal Aid Society of San Diego provides procedural and forms assistance at the Central location. (877) 534-2524

*These programs are not affiliated with San Diego Superior Court. The programs are independently responsible for compliance with applicable state or federal laws. The Superior Court does not endorse, evaluate, supervise, or monitor these programs.



**SUPERIOR COURT
 OF
 CALIFORNIA
 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

**2023
 Resource Guide**

Mission Statement

The Superior Court of California, County of San Diego will provide for the fair and timely administration of justice in all cases before it, in a manner that is accessible and understandable to litigants and the public, and in such a manner that promotes public confidence, pursuant to applicable state and federal laws.

COURT SERVICES AND LOCATIONS

Where you go for court services may depend on one or more of the following considerations:

- Where you live
- Where the legal issue occurred
- Where the court provides the services you need (for example, juvenile justice matters are heard only in the Central Division)

CENTRAL DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION (619) 844-2700

CENTRAL COURTHOUSE (619) 844-2700

1100 Union Street, San Diego, CA 92101

Jury Services

Appeals – Limited and Unlimited Civil, Family, and Probate

Appeals – Felony, Misdemeanors and Infractions

Criminal – Felonies and Misdemeanors

Family Law – Dissolution (Divorce), Child Custody and Support, Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, Family Law Facilitator

Family Support Division

Older Court Records - Records Research

Probate - Guardianships, Conservatorships, Estates, Trusts, and Delayed Registration of Birth, Death and Marriage

Court Reporting Services - Transcripts

HALL OF JUSTICE (619) 450-7275

330 West Broadway, San Diego, CA 92101

Civil - Limited and Unlimited

(including Unlawful Detainers & Civil Harassment Restraining Orders)

Small Claims - (858) 634-1919

KEARNY MESA FACILITY (858) 634-1800

8950 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA 92123

Traffic and other Infractions and

Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

JUVENILE COURT (858) 634-1600

2851 Meadow Lark Drive, San Diego, CA 92123

Adoptions and Emancipations

Juvenile Justice

Juvenile Dependency

Minor Offenses - Including Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



EAST COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(619) 456-4100

East County Regional Center:
250 East Main Street, El Cajon, CA 92020

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions
Family Court Services
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)
Child Custody and Support
Family Law Facilitator
Jury Services
Juvenile Dependency
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions



NORTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(760) 201-8600

North County Regional Center:
325 South Melrose Drive, Vista, CA 92081

Civil - Limited and Unlimited
Civil Harassment Restraining Orders
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions
Family Court Services
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)
Child Custody and Support
Family Law Facilitator
Jury Services
Juvenile Dependency (*Including Adoptions*)
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions - (760) 201-8500



SOUTH COUNTY DIVISION GENERAL INFORMATION

(619) 746-6200

South County Regional Center:
500 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, CA 91910

Civil Harassment Restraining Orders
Domestic Violence Restraining Orders
Criminal - Felonies, Misdemeanors and Infractions
Family Court Services
Family Law Dissolution (*Divorce*)
Child Custody and Support
Family Law Facilitator
Jury Services
Minor Offenses/Traffic Including Some
Juvenile Vehicle Code Infractions

JURY SERVICE INFORMATION

When you receive a summons to serve as a juror in the Superior Court, you are being asked to play a crucial role in the administration of justice. Some of the services provided by the court to ensure a smooth juror experience include:

24/7 Access

The court's Jury Services office maintains a telephone line to assist jurors with questions regarding jury service 24 hours a day, by calling 619-844-2800. A court staff member is available by phone from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Jurors may also access the court's website to get more information concerning jury service and to request an excuse or postpone jury service at www.sdcourt.ca.gov/Jury.

One Day/One Trial

Under California law, once a juror has appeared or has served through Telephone Standby, the juror does not have to serve again for a period of 12 months.

Free Transportation for Jurors Serving at the Central Courthouse

The Superior Court, in partnership with SANDAG, offers complimentary bus/trolley or coaster passes on the first day of jury service for those serving at the Central Courthouse or the Hall of Justice. See the jury summons for more information. This service is for jurors serving at the Central courts only.

Court Transfer

Prospective jurors can request a transfer of jury service to a more convenient Superior Court location within the county.

Wireless Internet Access

Free Wireless Internet Service is provided for jurors serving at each court location.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Community outreach and education are essential to the San Diego Superior Court. By establishing and maintaining strong ties to the community and promoting knowledge about how our system of justice works, the court is better able to fulfill its mission of administering justice in a way that is both accessible and understandable to the public.

Student Outreach and Education

Students in San Diego County have many unique opportunities to learn about the California justice system firsthand through activities that take place right in the courthouse. Tours and Judges in the Classroom programs are now offered virtually. For a complete list and description of programs offered, please visit the court's website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov.

Volunteers

Volunteering at the court is a great way to learn about the justice system and gain invaluable experience for individuals seeking a legal career, as well as those interested in serving their community. Volunteer opportunities include: information desks, business offices, and children's waiting rooms, just to name a few. Apply online at www.sdcourt.ca.gov.

Speakers

Want to learn more about the court? Judges and court staff are available to meet with school groups and community organizations to discuss how the court operates and the challenges and opportunities facing the California justice system.

For additional information, please call (619) 844-2322; or visit the court's website at www.sdcourt.ca.gov.

SAN DIEGO SUPERIOR COURT WEBSITE - www.sdcourt.ca.gov

The following services are available on the San Diego Superior Court website:

- Find out about self-help services for people without lawyers.
- Schedule a Traffic Business Office appointment.
- Find links to virtual hearings for various case types.
- Pay your traffic ticket, sign up for traffic school, request an extension, or create a payment plan.
- Pay court-ordered fines or fees.
- Look up your Jury Service information or request an extension.
- Search for a Civil Case Mediator.
- Reserve a Civil Motion date for Independent Calendar departments
- E-File documents in Family, Civil and Probate cases.
- Submit exhibits in Small Claims cases.
- Receive help from online ChatBots for Family, Probate and Traffic matters.
- Schedule an appointment for the Family Law Facilitators (FLF) workshops.
- Make online requests for Family Law case documents to be sent by mail.
- View court calendars by department.
- Look up information on court cases using our Court Index case search, Register of Actions, Civil & Probate Law and Motion pages, or New Case Filings.
- Purchase select court documents online through the Register of Actions.
- Find quick links to Child Support, DMV, Sheriff's Warrant, and Restraining Order indices.
- Find court locations and contact information.

If you do not have access to a computer in your home, most local libraries and the San Diego County Public Law Library (www.sandiegolawlibrary.org) provide computers with internet access for use by the public.